

**ATTACHMENT 4.12(c)(2)(B): Explanation to Support the Decision Not to Establish an Order of Selection**

The Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services anticipates being able to serve all eligible individuals during the next year. This is based upon the assumption that the agency will receive the funds contained in the budget request.

The agency will:

- A. Continue to provide services to all individuals currently receiving services;
- B. Provide assessment services to all individuals expected to apply for services in the next fiscal year;
- C. Provide services to all individuals who are expected to be determined eligible in the next fiscal year; and
- D. Meet all program requirements.

During the current fiscal year and the preceding fiscal year the agency has:

- i. Provided assessment services to all applicants, and the full range of services, as appropriate, to all eligible individuals;
- ii. Made referral forms widely available throughout the state;
- iii. Conducted outreach efforts to identify and serve individuals with disabilities who have been unserved or underserved by the vocational rehabilitation system; and
- iv. Not delayed, through waiting lists or other means, determinations of eligibility, the development of individualized plans for employment for individuals determined eligible, or the provision of services for eligible individuals for whom individualized plans for employment have been developed.

The information contained in Attachment 7.6: Outreach Procedures for Identifying and Serving Individuals with the Most Severe Disabilities Who are Minorities, (submitted as a part of the State Plan, effective date, October 1, 1997), remains in effect. Attachment 4.12(d) references collaboration activities and routine reporting mechanisms that have been established to monitor progress in this area.

The Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services, Vocational Rehabilitation Services continues to strive toward better services for individuals with disabilities, to include individuals with the most significant disabilities. The continuation of mental health grants, transition grants, the revision of the vehicle modification process, and the establishment of quality assurance are some of the projects undertaken.

The Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services, Vocational Rehabilitation Services continues its efforts to improve and expand services to people with the most significant disabilities by continued collaboration with Welfare reform, Workforce Development programs, and the Indiana Council on Independent Living (ICOIL). In conjunction with the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS), additional follow along funding has been made available.

The Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services, Vocational Rehabilitation Services continues its efforts to provide information regarding minorities. There is a series of scheduled reports which are routinely made available to staff.

Outreach procedures for identifying and serving individuals with the most significant disabilities includes the following.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) proposes to implement several strategies to improve the recruitment and involvement of minority consumers in its Referral/Service Delivery Systems.

These strategies are the result of VRS's Minority Task Force efforts to identify methods to attract and retain minority applicants for services. The following is a categorical capsulation of those strategies.

#### Involvement of Agencies at the "Grassroots" Level

Solicit the involvement of schools, churches, and multi-service centers in the referral process for Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Serve as a resource, particularly during the Intake/Assessment portion of application, for agencies involved in providing family services.

Enlist facilities and centers of specific cultural or cross sectional representation

Support the efforts of local VRS offices to actively recruit minority applicants.

Inform state Step Ahead programs of the importance of considering VRS during their comprehensive family assessments.

Serve as a source of information for community based agencies during their intake and assessment process.

#### Promoting Interagency Collaboration

Apprise Department of Workforce Development Employment Counselors of VRS eligibility requirements.

Acquaint the Division of Family & Children Services staff with the goals and objectives of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Serve as an option for individuals seeking benefits in the Disability Determination system.

Seek Cooperative Agreements among state agencies for information and referral services that target minority populations.

#### Advocacy of Minority Community Inclusion/Involvement

Endorse minority representation on Independent Living Councils and the Commission on Rehabilitation Services.

Encourage minority involvement on state planning councils.

#### Staff Cultural Diversity Training

Extend Cultural Diversity training to VR Counselors, Area Supervisors, and Region Managers, for the purpose of promoting cultural understanding and tolerance.

Serve as a source of information for other agencies interested in understanding the dynamics of minority existence in the disabled community.

Media/Public Service Announcements

Develop a media packet to stimulate Public Service Announcements, and Human Interest stories.

Access minority periodicals/publications.

Utilize Public T.V./radio talk shows.

Attend ethnic programs/events for the purposes of informing minority communities of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.